

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 06110 021601Z

ACTION INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0169

INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PARIS 06110

E.O.: 11652: N/A

TAGS: FR, PDIP, IR

SUBJ: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON NEW FRENCH AMBASSADOR
TO IRAN, RENE DE SAINT-LEGIER DE LASAUSAYE

REF: TEHRAN 1680

1. SAINT-LEGIER, 50, IS A HIGHLY COMPETENT CAREER DIPLOMAT, WELL-EDUCATED, URBANE, WITH AN ENQUIRING MIND. A MARQUIS BY BIRTH, HE HOLDS A LAW DEGREE, ADVANCED DEGREES IN PUBLIC LAW, LEGAL HISTORY AND ROMAN LAW, AND IS AN HONOR GRADUATE OF THE PRESTIGIOUS ECOLE NATIONALE D'ADMINISTRATION. ST-LEGIER ENTERED THE FOREIGN SERVICE IN 1954 AND SERVED INITIALLY IN PARIS WHERE HE DEALT WITH FOREIGN AID MATTERS. FOLLOWING AN ASSIGNMENT AS SECOND SECRETARY TO ROME (1957-61), HE RETURNED TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S DIVISION OF WESTERN EUROPEAN AFFAIRS. IN 1962 ST-LEGIER WAS NAMED SENIOR AIDE (DIRECTEUR DU CABINET) OF GASTON PALEWSKI, THEN MINISTER OF STATE FOR ATOMIC AND SPACE AFFAIRS. FROM 1964 UNTIL DE GAULLE'S DEPARTURE IN 1969, HE WAS THE PRESIDENT'S DIPLOMATIC ADVISOR. PARTLY AS A RESULT OF HAVING ACCOMPANIED DE GAULLE TO RUSSIA, ST-LEGIER IS INTERESTED IN AND KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT SOVIET AFFAIRS. HE WAS NAMED AMBASSADOR TO CHILE IN 1969, ONE OF THE YOUNGEST FRENCH AMBASSADORS AT

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THE TIME, AND ONE OF SEVERAL TALENTED APPOINTMENTS DESIGNED TO STRENGTHEN FRENCH REPRESENTATION IN SOUTH AMERICA. ST-LEGIER RETURNED TO THE QUAI D'ORSAY IN 1972 AS DIRECTOR FOR AMERICAN AFFAIRS. FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS, SINCE FEBRUARY 1975, HE HAS BEEN IN CHARGE OF UNITED NATION AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION AFFAIRS AT THE QUAI.

2. DURING ST-LEGIER'S TENURE AS QUAI DIRECTOR FOR AMERICAN AFFAIRS, HE HAD REGULAR WEEKLY MEETINGS WITH EMBASSY POLITICAL COUNSELOR WHO FOUND HIM TO BE COURTEOUS AND VERY HELPFUL IN THEIR DEALINGS. ALTHOUGH A GREAT ADMIRER OF DE GAULLE, ST-LEGIER IS NOT AN ORTHODOX GAULLIST, AND HE WELCOMES A FREE EXCHANGE OF IDEAS. DIRECTOR FOR UN AND IO AFFAIRS, ST-LEGIER HAS NOT BEEN AFRAID TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR COORDINATING MUCH OF FRANCE'S UN POLICY WITH OUR OWN, IN SHARP CONTRAST TO MANY OF HIS PREDECESSORS. HIS STATED ADMIRATION FOR FORMER USUN AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN'S AGGRESSIVE STYLE PRESUMABLY INDICATES THAT HE IS A "HARDLINER" ON THE CONDUCT OF RELATIONS WITH THE THIRD WORLD.

3. ST-LEGIER IS MARRIED TO THE FORMER CHRISTIANE GRISIER, AND THEY ARE THE PARENTS OF THREE CHILDREN. BOTH ST-LEGIER AND HIS WIFE SPEAK ENGLISH.
RUSH

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